Rethinking Privacy: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

May 28, 2018
An International Symposium
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, IG 1.414

Where does it take place?
IG-Farben-Haus IG 1.414
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
Campus Westend
Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1
60629 Frankfurt am Main

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Hosted by
DFG-Research Project „American Literature and the Transformation of Privacy“
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt
Institute of English and American Studies
Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1
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Universität Passau
DFG-Graduiertenkolleg 1681/2
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Co-Sponsored by
Forschungszentrum Historische Geisteswissenschaften
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

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Titelseite: fotolia.com, Innenteil: colourbox.de
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For roughly two hundred years, Western liberal societies have enshrined privacy as a social value and legal right. But in recent decades, privacy has come under intense pressure. States engage in surveillance on an unprecedented scale, Internet companies sell the personal information of their users, and ordinary people willingly share the most intimate details of their lives.

In response, commentators often defend privacy in an uncritical spirit, or they conclude that the age of privacy is over once and for all. By contrast, this symposium, co-hosted by the DFG-Research Project “American Literature and the Transformation of Privacy” at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt and the DFG-Research Training Group “Privatheit und Digitalisierung” at Universität Passau, brings together leading and upcoming interdisciplinary scholars from the United States of America and Germany in order to sound out more level-headed reflections on the challenges to privacy.

Contributors from the fields of History, Literary Studies, Political Theory, Sociology, Law, and Cultural Studies will use the current structural transformation of privacy as an opportunity to rethink how to approach privacy in the twenty-first century.

**Schedule**

**Sarah Igo – Vanderbilt University**
10:00 – 11:00
*Histories of Privacy (And Why They Matter)*

**Sandra Seubert – Goethe-University Frankfurt**
11:00 – 12:00
*Suspiciously Ordinary: Socio-Critical Reflections on the Concept of Privacy*

**Martin Stempfhuber – University of Würzburg**
12:00 – 13:00
*Embedded Privacies: Some Recent Development in the Sociology of Privacy 2.0*

**David Rosen – Trinity College, Hartford CT & Aaron Santesso – Georgia Institute of Technology**
14:00 – 15:00
*Public in Private: Some Problems of Communication in Contemporary American Literature and Culture*

**Lukas Edeler – University of Passau**
15:00 – 16:00
*Privacy as a Lens on State Socialist Societies? Historiographic Perspectives*

**Christian Aldenhoff – University of Passau**
16:00 – 17:00
*Autonomy as the Foundation for a Right to Privacy*